

**City of Milton-Freewater
City Council Minutes**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met Monday, March 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Albee Room of the Library.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Orrin Lyon, Ed Chesnut, Jeff Anliker, Brad Humbert and Steve Irving.

Councilor Sam Hopkins-Hubbard was absent.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman and Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw.

Citizens present were Tara Patten and Steven Patten. Water Control Board Members Roger Cosner, Manford Anliker and Vern Rodighiero were also present.

Press member Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald was present.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of council minutes and executive session minutes from the February 28, 2011 meeting and accounts payable from February 23rd – March 8th, 2011.

Councilor Humbert motioned to approve the consent calendar items. Councilor Anliker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

RECOGNITION OF AWARD TO MILTON-FREEWATER WATER CONTROL BOARD MEMBERS

City Manager Hall read the award that was presented at the Milton-Freewater Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet awards dinner for the M-F Water Control Board Members. (See below for the entire presentation). This was a special Community Service award and not all the members were able to attend the dinner. Manager Hall and the City Councilors wanted to make sure these gentlemen were recognized in public at which time Mayor Lewis Key presented the board members with an award plaque. All board members were in attendance except Sam Hopkins-Hubbard.

Following is the verbiage from the award presented at the MF Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet Awards Dinner, February 17, 2011.

In this day and age, we hear the term “community service” used quite frequently --- actually, it’s even a phrase that is used to indicate something that convicted criminals are required to do to make up for their transgression!

The group of gentlemen we want to thank and recognize tonight have taken “community service” above and beyond what any ordinary person would qualify as service to the community. These men have put community literally above self. When the community was in need, these five CHAMPIONS stepped up to serve without a moment’s hesitation --- they put their personal and professional livelihoods at stake, they have dedicated their personal time, efforts, energy, and funding to taking on a battle that any odds maker in VEGAS would have qualified as a losing bet.

And yet, as true CHAMPIONS of our community, not only did they defy the odds; they blew them out of the water. And speaking of water --- the group of champions we would like to recognize tonight are the five members of the Milton-Freewater Water Control Board ---

CHAIRMAN:	Manford Anliker
VICE CHAIRMAN:	Sam Hopkins-Hubbard
BOARD MEMBERS:	Vern Rodighiero
	Roger Cosner
	Brad Humbert

Gentlemen, on behalf of a very grateful community, please accept our thanks and continued support for sponsoring the bond measure and all you've done and continue to do to bring about the solution of the repair of our levee.

Mayor Key expressed his appreciation for all the hard work these individuals have done.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2199, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF DEDICATION OF RIGHT OF WAY TO EXTEND KEY BLVD. (SOUTH) DUE TO GRANT FUNDING OF HOUSE BILL 2001

Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw explained the proposed dedication of right of way was to extend Key Blvd. to the south. The project is being funded by House Bill 2001. This will also meet the needs of an existing agreement with the Key Family regarding this property. Staff prepared the dedication of right of way documents and sent them to the developer Spy Glass LLC, owner of the property. Spy Glass LLC is in support of the project and has signed off on the dedication of right of way.

Councilor Humbert asked where Nichols Canyon would tie into Key Blvd.

Manager Hall said there would be a road constructed that would tie Nichols Canyon and Key Blvd. together. The city council will have the chance to name the proposed new road.

Councilor Humbert asked if utilities will be extended with this additional improvement.

Mr. Bradshaw replied by saying that water was already installed and a sewer line would be piped deep enough for future connection so the newly constructed road would not need to be disturbed.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2199, Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of the Dedication of Right of Way to extend Key Blvd. south, due to grant funding of House Bill 2001.

Councilor Lyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Appointment of Council members to speak at the wind development code public hearing before the Umatilla County Commissioners

Manager Hall said she was approached by a member of the Blue Mountain Alliance who was asking for the continued support of the city council at the Umatilla County Commissioners Public Hearing on March 17, 2011. This member suggested the City seek additional support from the City of Adams and Athena. Manager Hall felt the City of Pendleton and Hermiston would have more similarities of concerns. She contacted the city manager's at both locations and they have agreed to write letters to the County Commissioners supporting the City of Milton-Freewater's concerns.

Councilor Chesnut announced he would be attending the Public Hearing and could represent the council or as a member of the Blue Mountain Alliance.

Councilor Anliker said he was planning to attend as well and volunteered to contact Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard as they were both the councils' representatives at the Umatilla County Planning Commission Public Hearing.

Councilor Humbert made a motion for Councilors Chesnut, Anliker and Hopkins-Hubbard to speak on behalf and represent the city council at the Umatilla County Commissioners Public Hearing scheduled for March 17, 2011 in Pendleton, Oregon in regard to the wind development code pertaining to standards for large scale commercial wind energy projects. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Next, Manager Hall gave an update of the Ambulance Service Advisory Committee meeting she attended along with the Police Chief and Fire Chief regarding the Umatilla County Ambulance Service Area 4, franchise agreement. She said she was misinformed by being told the city could have representatives on the committee. For that to happen, the County Ordinance would have to be amended. At the meeting she felt the city was afforded a great deal of latitude to weigh in on the conversation regarding the disposition of the ambulance service that directly affects Milton-Freewater residents. The current provider, Milton-Freewater Emergency Service (MF EMS), has submitted a termination letter effective May 1, 2011. They said they cannot provide the service any longer past May 1st without some sort of subsidy. Manager Hall reported the Committee's recommendation is to form a separate taxing district which would run at the approximate same boundaries of the Milton-Freewater Unified School District. The tax amount has not been established but thought it would run between 15 to 20 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Manager Hall felt that amount shouldn't throw the taxing division into compression. It was mentioned that the taxing district for Athena and Weston was approximately 14 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. If a taxing district were to be formed, then there would be a board established that would oversee the taxing district. The board members would have the option of creating their own ambulance service or sending out proposals to interested parties to provide the service.

Manford Anliker – 113 S. Main, asked what the MF EMS's budget was. He felt the community needed an ambulance provider and didn't feel a provider from Walla Walla would be willing to provide the service.

Manager Hall said some ambulance districts have a taxing district and offer ambulance service contracts. Since the tax is assessed to property owners, a renter of the property may be interested in a service contract. Manager Hall reported that Rick Saager, owner of the MF EMS did say in the Ambulance Service Advisory meeting that if he was still the provider of ASA 4 when a taxing district was formed he would not continue offering the ambulance service contracts. During the meeting Jim Sterns, Umatilla County Emergency Manager asked Mr. Saager if he could continue providing the ambulance service after May 1st until this situation gets resolved. Mr. Saager said he would need some compensation to do that. Mr. Sterns implied that an ambulance provider would come from Walla Walla if needed and there was an anonymous provider willing to step up if Mr. Saager were to completely step down. Manager Hall said she was interested in the city council's reaction to Umatilla County's suggestion of forming a taxing district.

Councilor Humbert requested this subject be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

Councilor Irving requested there be one of the Umatilla County Commissioners at the council meeting when this is on the agenda.

Manager Hall said Mr. Saager did announce publically in the Ambulance Service Advisory Committee meeting that he knew his ambulance service did take up a great deal of the City of Milton-Freewater's time and money for dispatching services.

A discussion ensued regarding what affect a new taxing district would have on the Milton-Freewater dispatch center and whether or not the dispatch services should be considered when a tax allocation was figured.

Councilor Humbert expressed the importance of having an ambulance service but felt the service should be paid by the users using it.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Key announced he had attended the Mayor's Day at the Capitol in Salem, Oregon. The topics he reported on meeting with the legislators was the repair of the levee and wind turbines. Along with the Mayor from the City of Union they both spoke to Representative Greg Smith regarding the wind turbines and the amount of subsidy the companies receive from the State of Oregon.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned to an Executive Session pursuant to 192.660(2) (h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed at 7:52 p.m.

The council returned to open session at 8:15 p.m. at which time a brief discussion ensued regarding how wind turbines affect land owners, property taxes and how land is valued with wind turbines being placed on private property.

No further action was taken therefore the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor